General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2002

Fifty-sixth session
Agenda items 20 (*f*) and 43

Resolutions adopted by the General Assembly

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/56/L.62 and Add.1)*]

56/220. Emergency international assistance for peace, normalcy and reconstruction of war-stricken Afghanistan and the situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security

A

THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/174 A of 19 December 2000 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Recalling also all relevant Security Council resolutions and statements by the President of the Council on the situation in Afghanistan, in particular resolutions 1267 (1999) of 15 October 1999, 1333 (2000) of 19 December 2000, 1378 (2001) of 14 November 2001 and 1383 (2001) of 6 December 2001,

Reaffirming its continued strong commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Afghanistan, and respecting its multicultural, multi-ethnic and historical heritage,

Reaffirming its condemnation of the use of Afghan territory for terrorist activities and the exporting of international terrorism from Afghanistan, and welcoming the successful efforts of the Afghan people to remove the Taliban regime, as well as the terrorist organizations it hosted, and to decide their own future,

Expressing its appreciation and strong support for the ongoing efforts of the Secretary-General, his Special Representative and the head of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan to promote peace and a lasting political settlement in Afghanistan,

Convinced that the main responsibility for finding a political solution lies ultimately with the Afghan people themselves, and strongly welcoming and

endorsing therefore the agreement reached among various Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,[1]

Convinced also that only a political settlement aimed at the establishment of a broad-based, gender-sensitive, multi-ethnic and fully representative government, which respects the human rights of all Afghans and the international obligations of Afghanistan and is committed to peace with its neighbours, can lead to durable peace and reconciliation,

Reiterating that the United Nations must continue to play its central and impartial role in the international efforts towards a peaceful resolution of the Afghan conflict as well as in efforts to provide humanitarian assistance, to provide for rehabilitation and reconstruction and to facilitate the orderly return of refugees, and therefore endorsing the request to the United Nations by the participants at the United Nations-sponsored talks on Afghanistan contained in annex III to the Bonn agreement,

Recognizing that the collapse of the Afghan economy requires, in addition to emergency assistance, integrated and multi-sectoral programmes of rehabilitation and reconstruction with a view to ensuring economic and social recovery and the sustainable development of the country, and that a strong international commitment to this end can serve as an incentive for the Afghan groups to implement the Bonn agreement,

Deeply concerned by the grave humanitarian situation and the serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in Afghanistan, especially against women and children, committed, in particular, by the Taliban, and recognizing that the accountability of perpetrators of grave human rights violations is a key factor in ensuring reconciliation and stability,

Deeply disturbed by the use of Afghan territory for the cultivation, production and trafficking of narcotic drugs, which has dangerous repercussions in the region and far beyond,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Expresses its concern* that the unstable situation in Afghanistan poses a continuing risk to peace and stability in the region, and expresses its determination to assist the efforts of the interim authority to prevent the use of Afghan territory for international terrorism;

3. *Calls upon* all Afghan groups to cooperate fully with the United Nations and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General to promote peace and a lasting political settlement in Afghanistan;

4. *Strongly supports* the efforts of the Afghan people, consistent with the agreement reached in Bonn, Germany,[1] to establish an interim authority, leading, through the convening of loya jirgas and free and fair elections, to the formation of a new government, which should all be broad-based, multi-ethnic, fully representative and committed to peace with Afghanistan's neighbours;

5. *Calls upon* all Afghan groups, in particular the interim authority, to implement the Bonn agreement fully;

---

[1] Agreement on Provisional Arrangements in Afghanistan Pending the Re-establishment of Permanent Government Institution (see S/2001/1154).

[2] A/56/681-S/2001/1157.

6. *Strongly supports* the enhanced role of the United Nations Special Mission to Afghanistan in helping the interim authority to implement the Bonn agreement until it is integrated in a new United Nations mission in Afghanistan;

7. *Supports* the efforts of groups of interested States and international organizations, underlines the importance of ensuring complementarity among these efforts, and towards this end calls upon all parties to coordinate closely with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General;

8. *Strongly urges* all Afghan groups to refrain from acts of reprisal, to respect human rights and to adhere to their obligations under international humanitarian law;

9. *Stresses* the importance of the full, equal and effective participation of women in civil, cultural, economic, political and social life and decision-making processes throughout the country at all levels, and calls upon all Afghan groups to protect and promote the equal rights of men and women, especially in the fields of education, work and health care;

10. *Calls upon* the international community to reinforce assistance to alleviate the urgent humanitarian needs of Afghanistan and, as long as the interim authority fulfils its commitments, to support generously post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction;

11. *Calls upon* all concerned countries to continue to provide assistance and protection to Afghan refugees and internally displaced persons in need of it and to work with the United Nations to facilitate their orderly return and effective reintegration, in safety and dignity, as soon as conditions permit;

12. *Calls upon* the interim authority to respect fully the international obligations of Afghanistan with regard to narcotic drugs, and calls upon the international community to increase its assistance for programmes aimed at reducing poppy cultivation in Afghanistan, including capacity-building for drug control, drug control monitoring systems and crop substitution programmes, as part of a comprehensive food security strategy and drug demand reduction support;

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly every three months during its fifty-sixth session on the progress of the United Nations and the efforts of his Special Representative to promote peace in Afghanistan, and to report to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution;

14. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session the item entitled "The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security".

91st plenary meeting
21 December 2001

B

EMERGENCY INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR PEACE, NORMALCY AND RECONSTRUCTION OF WAR-STRICKEN AFGHANISTAN

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 55/174 B of 19 December 2000 and all its previous relevant resolutions,

Strongly welcoming the successful conclusion of the agreement reached among various Afghan groups in Bonn, Germany, on 5 December 2001,[1]

Expressing its grave concern at the decades of conflict in Afghanistan, which has caused massive loss of life, extensive human suffering, destruction of property, serious damage to the economic and social infrastructure, refugee flows and other forcible displacements of large numbers of people,

Mindful of the fact that Afghanistan is highly vulnerable to natural disasters and that it is currently affected by the worst drought in living memory,

Remaining deeply concerned at the problem of millions of anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance, which constitutes a great danger for the civilian population and a major obstacle to the return of refugees and displaced populations, to the resumption of agricultural activities, to the provision of humanitarian assistance and to future rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts,

Noting with deep concern that the majority of the Afghan people are still unable to enjoy fully their human rights and fundamental freedoms owing to policies and practices, particularly of the Taliban, aimed at discriminating against or marginalizing parts of the population, in particular women and children, a situation which is exacerbated by the effects of war, poverty and profound underdevelopment,

Expressing its deep concern at widespread violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed by Afghan groups, and in this regard reminding all Afghan groups of their commitment to respect human rights in the country as contained in the Bonn agreement,

Deeply disturbed by the continuing security threat to humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel, including locally recruited staff,

Expressing its appreciation to the Afghan staff of the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, who have continued to provide assistance to vulnerable populations throughout the current crisis,

Noting with grave concern that limited access to certain areas of Afghanistan and inadequate conditions for the delivery of aid threatens the well-being of internally displaced persons and vulnerable sections of the civilian population,

Recognizing that a secure environment is absolutely necessary for the safe and effective delivery and distribution of humanitarian assistance,

Welcoming the timely preparation of operational plans by the United Nations in response to the latest humanitarian crisis, and affirming the urgent need to reinforce international emergency assistance to Afghanistan in order to alleviate the human suffering and restore basic services,

Recognizing the need to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy and process for a seamless connection between humanitarian relief and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan in a timely manner, with particular emphasis on

all aspects of sustainable development, including vulnerability reduction and mitigation, and the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Stressing the importance of a well-coordinated approach to implementing such a strategy, and welcoming in this respect the appointment of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan as the coordinator for the United Nations system,

Noting with deep concern that a significant number of Afghan refugees remain in neighbouring countries, as conditions in many parts of Afghanistan are still not conducive to a safe and sustainable return of the majority of refugees, and acknowledging that those refugees constitute a continuing socio-economic burden for the host countries,

Expressing its gratitude to all Governments that have rendered assistance to Afghan refugees, as well as to the Governments of neighbouring countries that continue to host Afghan refugee populations, and at the same time once again calling upon all parties to continue to fulfil their obligations for the protection of refugees and internally displaced persons and to allow international access for their protection and care,

Expressing its appreciation to the United Nations system and to all States and international and non-governmental organizations that have responded positively and continue to respond, where conditions permit, to the humanitarian needs of Afghanistan, as well as to the Secretary-General for his efforts in mobilizing and coordinating the delivery of appropriate humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General,[3] and endorses the observations contained therein;

2. *Stresses* that the responsibility for the solution of the humanitarian crisis lies above all with the Afghan people themselves, and urges them to attach the highest priority to national reconciliation;

3. *Urges* all Afghan groups to call a complete halt to the use of landmines and to cooperate fully with the United Nations Mine Action Programme;

4. *Calls upon* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to continue to coordinate closely their humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan on the basis of the principles laid out in the Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, and appeals to donor countries as well as other humanitarian organizations to cooperate closely with the United Nations, taking into account the priorities and requirements outlined in the donor alert and subsequent appeals;

5. *Stresses* the coordinating role of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Afghanistan for the United Nations system in the development and implementation of a strategy and process for a seamless connection between humanitarian relief and the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, including the cooperation of the United Nations system with the international community, in particular those countries actively engaged in humanitarian assistance and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, as well as the international financial institutions;

---

[3] A/56/687.

6. *Supports* the efforts of the Emergency Relief Coordinator in coordinating humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, underlines the continuing relevance of coordination structures in place for Afghanistan, encourages agencies to build upon them in response to the current crisis, and also encourages the humanitarian community to strengthen the coordination of their assistance to Afghanistan through existing mechanisms, including donor coordination through the Afghan Support Group;

7. *Welcomes* the designation by the Secretary-General of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to lead the early recovery efforts in Afghanistan, and invites the relevant United Nations organizations and agencies, as well as the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, the Islamic Development Bank, the Asian Development Bank and relevant non-governmental organizations, to develop jointly, in close collaboration with the interim authority and Afghan civil society, a comprehensive strategy and process for the early recovery and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, to be implemented where and when conditions permit;

8. *Encourages*, in this regard, all parts of the United Nations system to work together closely on the relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to development in Afghanistan;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to ensure, within the implementation of such a comprehensive strategy for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan, adequate and effective measures, inter alia, for demining, disaster reduction and the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants;

10. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence and intimidation directed against United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, and regrets the loss of life and physical harm suffered among the Afghan staff;

11. *Urges* all Afghan groups to respect international humanitarian law, to ensure the safety, security and free movement of all United Nations and humanitarian personnel, as well as their safe and unimpeded access to all affected populations, and to protect the property of the United Nations and of humanitarian organizations, including non-governmental organizations, against, inter alia, looting and theft, so as to facilitate their work;

12. *Encourages* the Afghan groups to facilitate the operations of the United Nations and other humanitarian organizations, and urges them to cooperate fully and without discrimination on grounds of gender, nationality or religion with the United Nations and associated bodies, as well as with other agencies and humanitarian organizations, to refrain from all interference in the delivery of humanitarian relief supplies and to guarantee the secure and uninterrupted supply of humanitarian aid to all vulnerable populations;

13. *Strongly condemns* discrimination against women and girls as well as ethnic and religious groups, including minorities, which adversely affects, inter alia, international relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, and emphasizes the importance of actively involving all elements of Afghan society, in particular women, in the development and implementation of relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes;

14. *Calls upon* all Afghan groups to respect fully the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without discrimination of any kind, including on the

basis of gender, ethnicity or religion, and in accordance with their obligations under international law, and to protect and promote the equal rights of women and men;

15. *Urges* all Afghan groups to refrain from the recruitment or use of children in armed conflicts contrary to international standards and to take all necessary measures for the demobilization and social reintegration of war-affected children;

16. *Stresses* the responsibility of all Afghan groups to facilitate the provision of efficient and effective remedies to the victims of grave violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law and to bring the perpetrators to justice in accordance with international standards;

17. *Appeals* to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance and future rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes integrate a gender perspective, that they actively attempt to promote the participation of both women and men, and that women benefit equally with men from those programmes;

18. *Expresses its appreciation* to those Governments that continue to host Afghan refugees, urges the Governments concerned to fulfil their obligations under international refugee law with respect to the protection of refugees and the right to seek asylum, and calls upon the international community to do likewise;

19. *Recognizes* the large number of refugees in neighbouring countries, and calls upon the international community to consider providing further assistance in support of Afghan refugees;

20. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Governments of neighbouring States hosting United Nations agencies for their cooperation, and calls upon them to continue to facilitate the work of those United Nations humanitarian operations which are temporarily based on their territory in order to ensure an efficient delivery of emergency aid into Afghanistan;

21. *Urgently appeals* to all States, the United Nations system and international and non-governmental organizations to continue to provide, in close collaboration with the interim authority and Afghan civil society, when conditions on the ground permit, all possible humanitarian, financial, technical and material assistance for the Afghan population, especially in the areas most affected by the drought, as well as assistance to promote the voluntary, safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons;

22. *Calls upon* the international community to respond generously to the donor alert, future consolidated appeals as well as long-term interventions towards rehabilitation and reconstruction, and in this respect invites Member States to participate actively in the ministerial level meeting on reconstruction assistance to be held in Japan in January 2002;

23. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session a report on the actions taken pursuant to the present resolution.

91st plenary meeting
21 December 2001